

**The invention claimed is:**

1 1. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3 sending a message blocking request from a first network component to a second network  
4 component, the message blocking request identifying a third network component; and  
5 preventing messages from being communicated from the third network component to the  
6 first network component.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second  
2 network component.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of send a message blocking  
2 command to the third network component.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the third  
2 network component.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of a  
2 blocking period.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one  
2 acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which  
3 at least one message may be communicated from the third network component to the first  
4 network component.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to be  
2 taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the third network  
3 component to the first network component.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second network component may modify the action  
2 specified in the message blocking request.

1 9. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps

2 of:

3 sending a message blocking request from a first MSC to a SCF, the message blocking  
4 request identifying a second MSC, and  
5 preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the SCF.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of send a message blocking  
2 command to the second MSC.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second  
2 MSC.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of  
2 a blocking period.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one  
2 acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which  
3 at least one message may be communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

1 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to  
2 be taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the second MSC  
3 to the first MSC.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the SCF may modify the action specified in the  
2 message blocking request.